LAKE MICHIGAN

Lake, Porter, LaPorte Counties

2007 Charter Boat Catch and Effort, Indiana Waters of Lake Michigan

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Fifty charter licenses were issued to fish Lake Michigan during 2007.

- Compliance with the reporting requirement during 2007 was 99.6%. From the reports received, 83% were received within the legal required time frame (based upon the post-mark date on the mailing envelope or the hand-delivery date).

- Operators submitted reports on 501 fishing excursions in Indiana waters of Lake Michigan. Salmonine species were the primary target (415 trips); however, 86 fishing trips were conducted for yellow perch by 8 operators. Only one operator exclusively charters for yellow perch.

- A total of 11,143 hours were spent pursuing trout and salmon by 2,019 chartered anglers. This was an increase (8%) in angler hours and an increase (5%) in anglers compared to the 2006 fishing season. A total of 2,287 hours were spent fishing for perch by 464 chartered anglers. This was a decrease compared to the 2006 season when 2,844 hours were spent yellow perch fishing by 551 chartered anglers.

- The trout and salmon catch totaled 3,638 fish. The most abundant species in the catch was coho salmon, comprising 61% of the total. The 2007 trout and salmon catch decreased (16%) compared to the 2006 catch of 4,358 salmonines. The yellow perch catch also declined (32%) compared to the 2006 perch catch.

- Charter fishing success for all salmonine species was 32.6 fish per 100 angler-hours, a decline from the 42.3 fish per 100 angler-hours observed in 2006. The 2007 charter catch rate for coho salmon decreased, but increased for steelhead trout, brown trout and lake trout. Chinook salmon catch rates remained unchanged between 2006 and 2007. Comparing 2007 catch rates with their ten-year averages, only brown trout and lake trout had rates that exceeded their long-term averages.

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INTRODUCTION

As a trout and salmon fishery developed within Indiana's waters of Lake Michigan in the mid 1960's, a sport and charter boat industry also developed and prospered. By the mid 1970's, Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) biologists believed that charter boat operators were harvesting a large number of salmonines each year (Braun and Hudson 1988). As the number of operators increased, information about their fishing effort and catch was important in understanding fishing quality and the impact they had on the Lake Michigan fishery. In 1976, a pilot program was established with reporting forms distributed to ten charter boat operators known to be fishing from Indiana ports. These operators expressed an interest in providing information about their fishing trips to supplement the IDNR Lake Michigan creel survey data; however, the degree of cooperation varied from full to no cooperation (Braun and Hudson 1988). To obtain a continuous annual record of charter fishing effort and the numbers and species of fish harvested by charter boat anglers in Indiana, legislation was introduced, and passed in 1987, that requires reporting of sport catch and effort by the charter fishing industry. These data are used to assist with Lake Michigan fishery management efforts by providing valuable trend information concerning charter harvest and catch rates and provides an overview of the status of stocked salmonids. Subsequently, the Indiana Lake Michigan charter community is provided with catch and effort statistics.

Salmon and trout continue to be an important component of the Lake Michigan fish community. Originally planted to utilize an overabundant population of non-native alewives, stocking continues today and provides sport fishing opportunities for lake and tributary anglers. Since 1995, the number of fingerling trout and salmon stocked in Lake Michigan has averaged 13.4 million (Figure 1). The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, on average, has stocked 1.2 million trout and salmon annually into Indiana waters of Lake Michigan since 1995 (Table 1, Figure 2).

METHODS

Catch and effort information were submitted by charter boat operators through the mandatory catch reporting system. Licensees provided catch information on a per trip basis for all paid trips conducted exclusively in Indiana waters of Lake Michigan. Reports were required to be submitted before the fifteenth day of the following month, as outlined in Administrative Code 312 I.A.C. 9-7-17 (Appendix 1). The administration of the charter reporting program and compilation of Lake Michigan charter fishing catch and effort was part of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Project/Grant 300FW1F10D40504. This project covers sport fish monitoring in Lake Michigan and its tributaries.

The information obtained from each report included: reporting period (month), name of licensee, license number, date of fishing trip, total number of anglers, total hours fished, and numbers of fish harvested and released (Appendix 2). Space was also provided on the form for comments or observations. Per I.A.C. 9-7-17, only paid trips conducted wholly or partially in Indiana waters needed to be reported. Reports were required monthly, even if no fishing activity occurred as long as the license was active. If IDNR personnel did not receive a report for a given month, the operator was delinquent since one cannot distinguish those operators that did not fish from those that failed to submit a report.

Delinquencies were directly addressed by the Lake Michigan Fisheries Research Office and the IDNR Law Enforcement Division in Michigan City. Operators who were missing required reports were telephoned requesting immediate report submission. If the report was not received in a timely fashion, the operator's name was submitted to Law Enforcement for enforcement action. A person who fails to keep accurate records of each day's catch of fish and other related information or fails to report monthly before the fifteenth day of each month commits a Class C infraction (312 I.A.C. 9-7-17; Authority I.C. 14-22-2-6, I.C. 14-22-15).

Charter data were used to summarize fishing effort or angler hours, harvest, and catch for trout and salmon and other species (i.e. yellow perch). Angler hours are the total number of hours fished by all anglers. Thus, if a charter operator took four anglers out and fished six hours, total fishing effort is 24 angler hours. Harvest is the

total number of fish caught and kept by an angler. Catch is the total number of fish caught and total number of fish released by an angler. Catch rate is the number of fish caught in a given amount of time. Relative yearly comparisons of catch, independent of the magnitude of effort, are possible by expressing the catch on a per-unit-of-effort basis, known as catch rates. With this measure, the long-term trend of fishing success, by species, can be presented for comparisons. All catch rates are standardized to 100 angler-hours because catch rates were significantly less than one fish caught for every hour spent trout and salmon angling. The catch rates provided are targeted rates, in that only trout and salmon catch and effort were utilized for the salmonine catch rates and only yellow perch catch and effort were utilized for the perch catch rates.

RESULTS

Lake Michigan licenses

Fifty charter licenses were issued to fish Lake Michigan during 2007. This was slightly lower than the number of licenses issued in 2006. Since 2003, the number of Lake Michigan charter licenses issued has remained at or above fifty (Table 2).

Compliance

Compliance with the reporting requirement was 99.6%. From the reports received, 83% were received within the legally required time frame (based upon the post-mark date on the mailing envelope or the hand-delivery date).

One operator received a citation from the IDNR Law Enforcement Division for failure to submit required charter fishing reports for the months of April and May. Therefore, these two reports are not included within the 2007 charter summary data.

Fishing harvest and effort

Operators submitted reports on 501 fishing excursions in Indiana waters of Lake Michigan. Trout and salmon were the primary target; however, 86 fishing trips were conducted for yellow perch by 8 operators. Only one charter operator exclusively charters for yellow perch.

Trout and salmon

In 2007, charter boat operators fishing Indiana waters reported 2,019 chartered anglers fishing 11,143 hours for trout and salmon (Table 3). Both the total number of anglers (5%) and angler hours (8%) increased slightly compared to 2006.

Charter operators reported a total of 3,574 trout and salmon harvested from Indiana waters of Lake Michigan. Coho salmon were the most abundant species in the harvest, comprising 61% of the total (Table 3, Figure 3). Chinook salmon accounted for 13% of the total harvest. Percent of total harvest for other salmonines included: lake trout (12%), brown trout (8%) and steelhead (7%). Harvest and effort were greatest during the month of April, followed by May (Table 3).

While there was a slight increase (8%) in angler hours, the overall total number of trout and salmon harvested decreased (15%) compared to 2006 (Figure 3). Catch, or the total number of fish harvested and released, declined approximately 16% between 2006 and 2007 (Table 5). Total catch in 2007 decreased for coho salmon, whereas Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, brown trout and lake trout total catch increased.

Yellow perch

A total of 2,287 hours, representing 86 trips, were spent fishing for perch by 464 chartered anglers (Table 6). This was a decline (20%) in effort compared to the 2006 fishing season when 2,844 hours, or 101 trips, were fished exclusively for yellow perch (Palla 2007). The 2007 yellow perch catch declined considerably (32%) compared to the 2006 perch catch (9,775 fish). Largest yellow perch catches occurred during the months of June and August. Yellow perch angler effort was greatest during June, followed by July (Table 6).

Catch rates

In 2007, trout and salmon charter anglers caught 32.6 fish per 100 angler-hours (Figure 4). This was lower than the 2006 (42.3 fish per 100 angler-hours) and ten-year mean (44.8 fish per 100 angler-hours) catch rate. Comparing trout and salmon catch rates with 2006 data, catch rates decreased for coho salmon but increased for steelhead trout, brown trout and lake trout (Figures 5-9). Chinook salmon catch rates

remained unchanged between 2006 and 2007 (Figure 6). The catch rate reported in 2007 for lake trout (3.9 fish per 100 hours of trout and salmon fishing) was the highest reported from the ten-year data series (Figure 9).

Comparing 2007 catch rates with their ten-year average, only brown trout and lake trout had rates that exceeded their long-term averages (Figures 8-9).

Released species

A relatively low number of trout and salmon were released by chartered anglers, as shown in Table 4. Coho salmon, Chinook salmon and lake trout were released mainly from March through May. For yellow perch, a total of 2,389 fish were legal releases, representing 36% of the total catch (Table 6).

DISCUSSION

Coho salmon continue to be the most important salmonine species in the charter catch from Indiana waters of Lake Michigan. In 2007, however, the charter coho salmon catch was the lowest recorded from the prior ten-year period. Based on charter catch rates, the 2007 salmonid fishing season within Indiana waters could be characterized as below average for coho salmon and steelhead trout, average for Chinook salmon and above average for brown trout and lake trout.

Data collected from the 2007 Indiana Lake Michigan creel survey also revealed a below average coho fishing season. The Lake Michigan creel survey represents estimates of fish returned to Indiana ports, whether anglers fished Indiana, Illinois or Michigan waters. The boat angler coho catch rate fell to a new low of 13.6 fish per 100 angler-hours. This was the lowest recorded from the prior 1998-2007 period. Boat angler catch rates for the remaining salmonine species (Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, brown trout and lake trout), however, all increased compared to the prior fishing season. These catch rates are consistent with the observed 2007 charter catch rates.

The decline in the number of coho salmon stocked lake wide may potentially explain the below-average charter and creel coho catch rates. Between 2003 and 2004, 46% less coho were stocked due to production failures at Michigan's Platte

River hatchery. Whether the poor coho catch was a function of decreased fish availability or other environmental factors (e.g. salmonine forage levels, continued availability of other salmonine species) remains unclear.

During the 2007 season, the number of yellow perch fishing trips fell compared to the previous season. Weather was the likely culprit for the low number of perch trips conducted and overall low number of yellow perch harvested. Several yellow perch charter fishing trips were cancelled in July and August, due to the poor weather and its impact on yellow perch distribution (Chuck Weis, personal communication). Ball State University total gillnet catch data confirms low numbers of perch within Indiana waters, as their June through August catch decreased by 50% from the near record catch of 100 fish/net-night observed in 2006 (Doll and Lauer 2007). Typically, the months of June through August produce the best perch catches within Indiana waters.

Temperature also likely impacted yellow perch distribution within Indiana waters. Ball State University recently evaluated differences in yellow perch catch rates for gillnets set on the bottom at two depths (10 and 15 m) in southern Lake Michigan during June, July and August from 1989 to 2006. More yellow perch were captured in gillnets set at 10 m depths compared to gillnets set at 15 m depths. Differences in water temperature and thermocline depth were significant in explaining the catch rate fluctuations, while differences in wind direction, wave height and secchi depths were not significant (Rydell and Lauer 2007). The results of the Ball State University evaluation suggest that perch likely select habitat based upon water temperatures in the summer, with fish moving directly in response to thermocline changes.

A number of factors can impact fishing success within Indiana waters, including lake wide stocking levels, lake wide forage levels, near shore water temperatures, weather patterns and fish movement. The southern end of Lake Michigan continues to provide anglers with diverse fishing opportunities. Our waters are unique with a shallow basin and presence of coldwater fish species (i.e. trout and salmon), coolwater fish species (i.e. yellow perch), and warmwater fish species (i.e. smallmouth bass). More businesses that recognize the importance of market diversification may be able to increase profitability by offering trips for more than just one type of fishing. However, it is important to recognize that other factors (e.g

economics, Lake Michigan's ecological balance) may also impact the future success of the charter industry (Kuehn et al., 2005).

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended:

- The Lake Michigan Fisheries Research office continues program administration of the mandatory catch reporting system.

- The Lake Michigan Fisheries Research office continues working with District 10 Law Enforcement to improve report compliance and decrease report tardiness. Operators should be sent a letter at the beginning of the fishing season which outlines their compliance from the past year; this letter will also serve as a reminder of the requirements of the Charter Fishing Boat Operator's License per 312 I.A.C. 9-7-17.

- The Lake Michigan Fisheries Research office should continue compiling and providing copies of the Charter Boat Catch and Effort in Indiana Water's of Lake Michigan report to charter operators. This report not only provides the Indiana charter community with catch and effort statistics, but also provides valuable trend information concerning charter harvest and catch rates.

- Data from inland charter operators continue to be available to district fisheries biologists upon request.

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Kuehn, D., F. Lichtkoppler, and C. Pistis. 2005. The Great Lakes charter fishing industry: 1973 to 2002. Fisheries 30.3: 10-17.

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Rydell, J.J and T. E. Lauer. 2007. The influence of abiotic factors on gill-net catch rates of yellow perch in southern Lake Michigan, 1989-2006. Master's thesis, Ball State University, Muncie, IN.

Submitted by: Janel S. Palla, Assistant Fisheries Biologist
Date: March 10, 2008

Approved by: Brian Breidert, Fisheries Biologist

Approved by: Stuart Shipman, Fisheries Supervisor
Date: May 13, 2008

Table 1. Number of trout and salmon stocked in Lake Michigan by Indiana Department of Natural Resources, 1995 through 2007.

	LAKE MICHIGAN				ST. JOSEPH RIVER		
Year	Chinook Salmon	Coho Salmon	Steelhead Trout	Brown Trout	Chinook Salmon	Coho Salmon	Steelhead Trout
1995	364,182	165,809	301,052	0	190,819	0	188,842
1996	362,162	266,549	312,776	0	209,407	75,980	254,135
1997	279,297	80,817	340,010	0	143,262	0	287,174
1998	386,525	148,320	183,715	0	206,987	0	299,869
1999	264,608	146,882	319,082	0	150,811	0	252,491
2000	267,865	157,208	174,136	0	149,911	0	220,439
2001	297,195	157,048	297,971	0	153,520	0	293,475
2002	253,000	224,797	298,884	35,000	0	0	306,297
2003	232,395	233,248	309,134	40,400	0	0	282,857
2004	237,052	236,026	334,968	46,238	0	0	278,109
2005	251,281	237,009	645,576	36,371	0	0	287,471
2006[1]	225,000	79,018	257,206	42,900	0	0	234,211
2007[2]	217,389	231,342	349,497	41,110	0	0	279,255
Totals	**3,637,951**	**2,364,073**	**4,124,007**	**242,019**	**1,204,717**	**75,980**	**3,464,625**

[1]Due to the shut-down and rehabilitation of Mixsawbah State Fish Hatchery in 2006, the coho salmon plantings were reduced by 60%; the spring release skamania steelhead were stocked in the fall of 2005 as fingerlings, Michigan steelhead (winter-run) were stocked in 2007 as yearlings instead of December 2006 as fingerlings; and the St. Joseph River fall steelhead plantings were reduced by approximately 40,000 fish to offset changes to the Trail Creek and Little Calumet steelhead stockings.
[2]Due to the shut-down and rehabilitation of Mixsawbah State Fish Hatchery in 2006, the spring release skamania steelhead were stocked in the fall of 2006 as fingerlings.

Table 2. Number of Lake Michigan charter licenses issued by Indiana Department of Natural Resources from 1998 through 2007.

Year	No. Licenses	Year	No. Licenses
1998	42	2003	53
1999	40	2004	54
2000	39	2005	55
2001	41	2006	55
2002	47	2007	50

Table 3. Trout and salmon harvest and fishing effort reported by charter boat operators fishing Indiana waters of Lake Michigan during 2007.

	MONTH									
	MAR.	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	TOTAL
HARVEST										
Coho	103	1,002	541	475	7	13	32	0	0	2,173
Chinook	1	35	24	35	24	120	218	0	0	457
Steelhead	3	74	66	50	6	15	28	0	0	242
Brown Trout	48	181	32	12	0	4	7	0	0	284
Lake Trout	0	276	97	15	14	9	7	0	0	418
TOTAL	155	1,568	760	587	51	161	292	0	0	3,574
Angler-Hours	524	4,771	2,032	1,474	191	358.5	1,759.5	33	0	11,143
Anglers	101	902	350	255	33	67	305	6	0	2,019
Trips	21	177	71	56	6	17	66	1	0	415

Table 4. The number of trout and salmon released as reported by charter boat operators fishing Indiana waters of Lake Michigan during 2007.

	MONTH									
	MAR.	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	TOTAL
SPECIES										
Coho	2	18	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
Chinook	5	7	3	1	0	0	3	0	0	19
Steelhead	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Brown Trout	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Lake Trout	0	8	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	16

Table 5. Trout and salmon catch and fishing effort reported by charter boat operators fishing Indiana waters of Lake Michigan from 1998 through 2007.

Year	Coho	Chinook	Steel-head	Brown Trout	Lake Trout	Angler Hours	No. Anglers	Trips
1998	5,431	158	801	352	282	13,630	2,856	584
1999	6,933	403	1,484	249	203	27,964	5,427	1,139
2000	6,707	432	178	394	149	13,953	2,815	571
2001	10,129	675	305	272	192	19,295	3,576	744
2002	8,518	1,420	713	349	177	21,164	3,946	841
2003	8,777	818	889	176	63	22,201	4,000	862
2004	6,946	2,354	449	276	85	25,852	4,535	990
2005	3,697	1,371	453	286	68	18,449	3,229	703
2006	3,474	444	115	207	118	10,300.5	1,916	407
2007	2,196	476	245	287	434	11,143	2,019	415
Five-year Average (’03 - ‘07)	5,018	1,093	430	246	154	17,589	3,140	675
Ten-year Average	6,281	855	563	285	177	18,395	3,432	726

Table 6. Yellow perch harvest, number of yellow perch releases, and fishing effort reported by charter boat operators fishing Indiana waters of Lake Michigan during 2007.

	MONTH									
	MAR.	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	TOTAL
Catch										
Yellow Perch Harvest	0	407	145	1,511	819	1,095	179	12	124	4,292
Yellow Perch Releases	0	303	1	720	545	516	164	20	120	2,389
Angler-Hours	0	135	96	766	522	468	175	30	95	2,287
Anglers	0	32	18	152	107	95	35	6	19	464
Trips	0	5	3	28	21	19	6	1	3	86

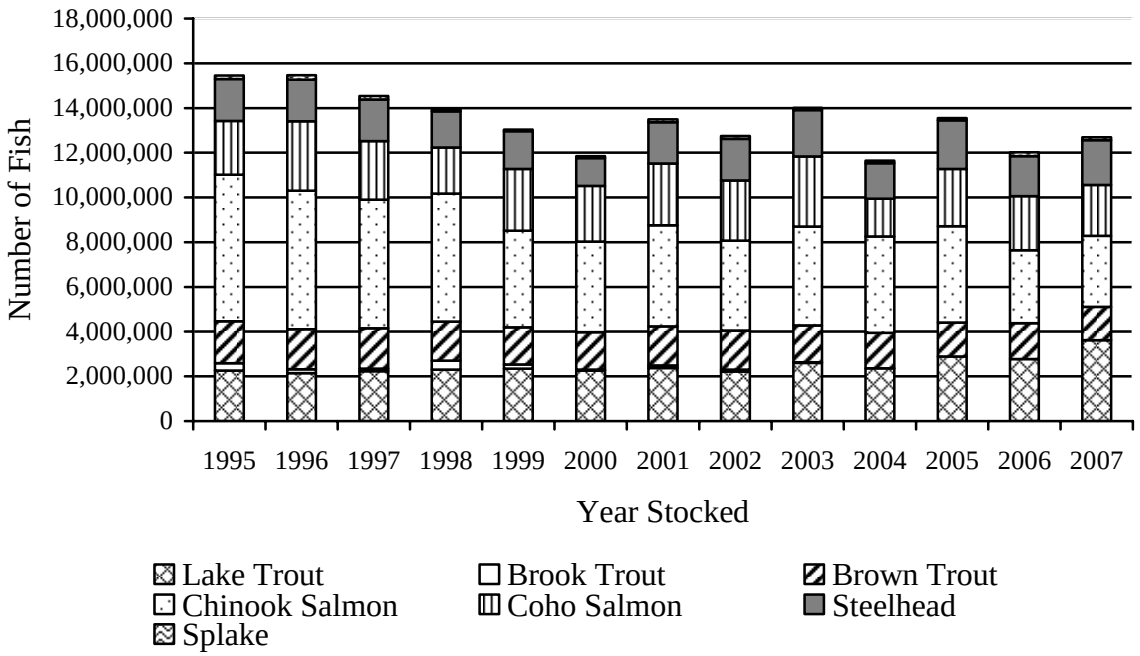

Figure 1. Number of trout and salmon stocked in Lake Michigan each year, 1995 through 2007.

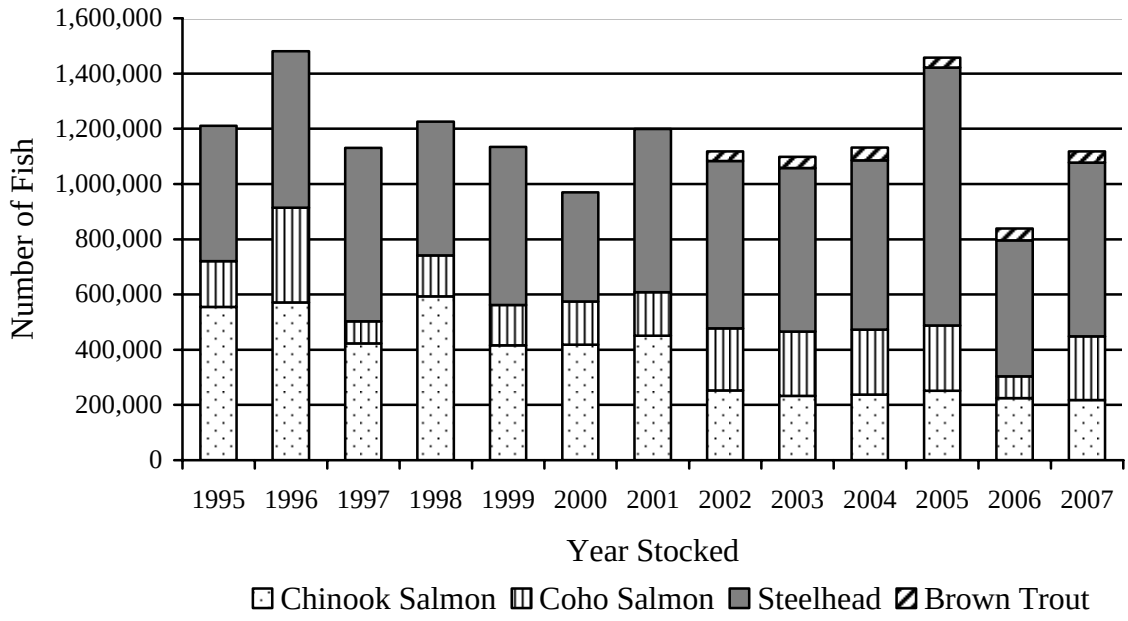

Figure 2. Number of trout and salmon stocked in Lake Michigan (including the St. Joseph River) by Indiana Department of Natural Resources, 1995 through 2007.

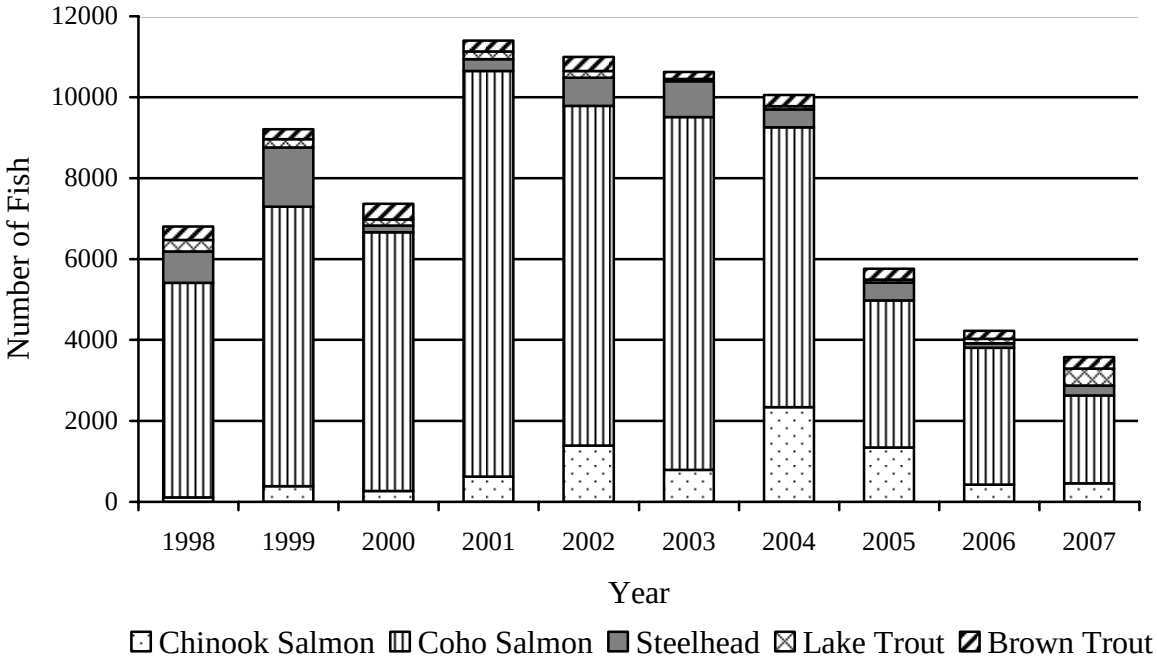

Figure 3. Trout and salmon harvest reported by charter boat operators fishing Indiana waters of Lake Michigan from 1998 through 2007.

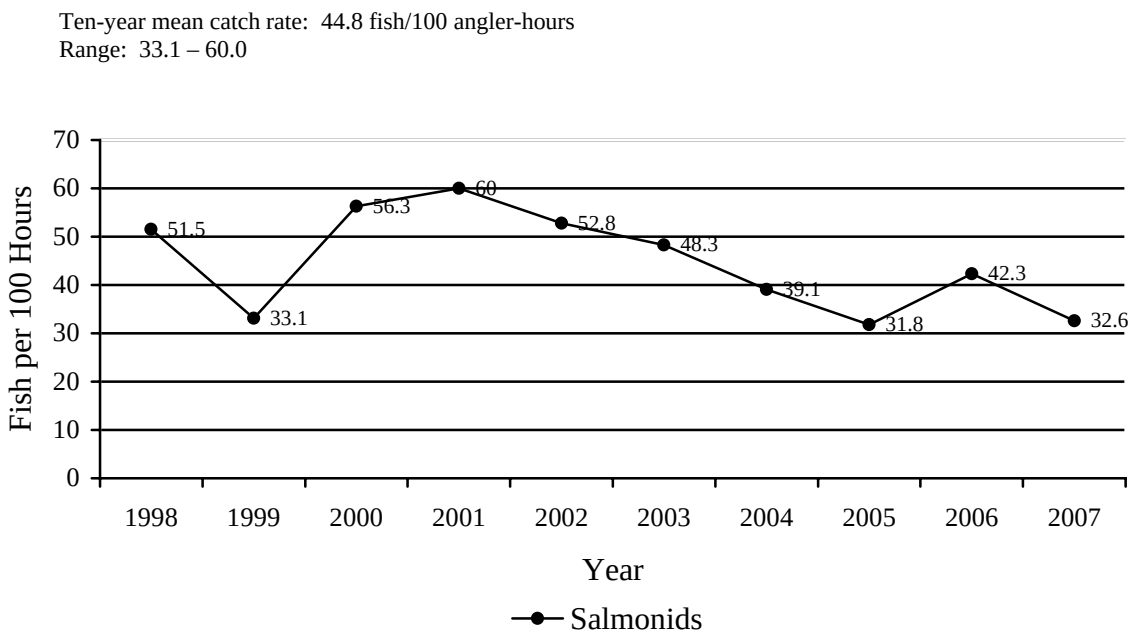

Figure 4. Charter catch rate for all salmonid species in Indiana waters of Lake Michigan from 1998 through 2007.

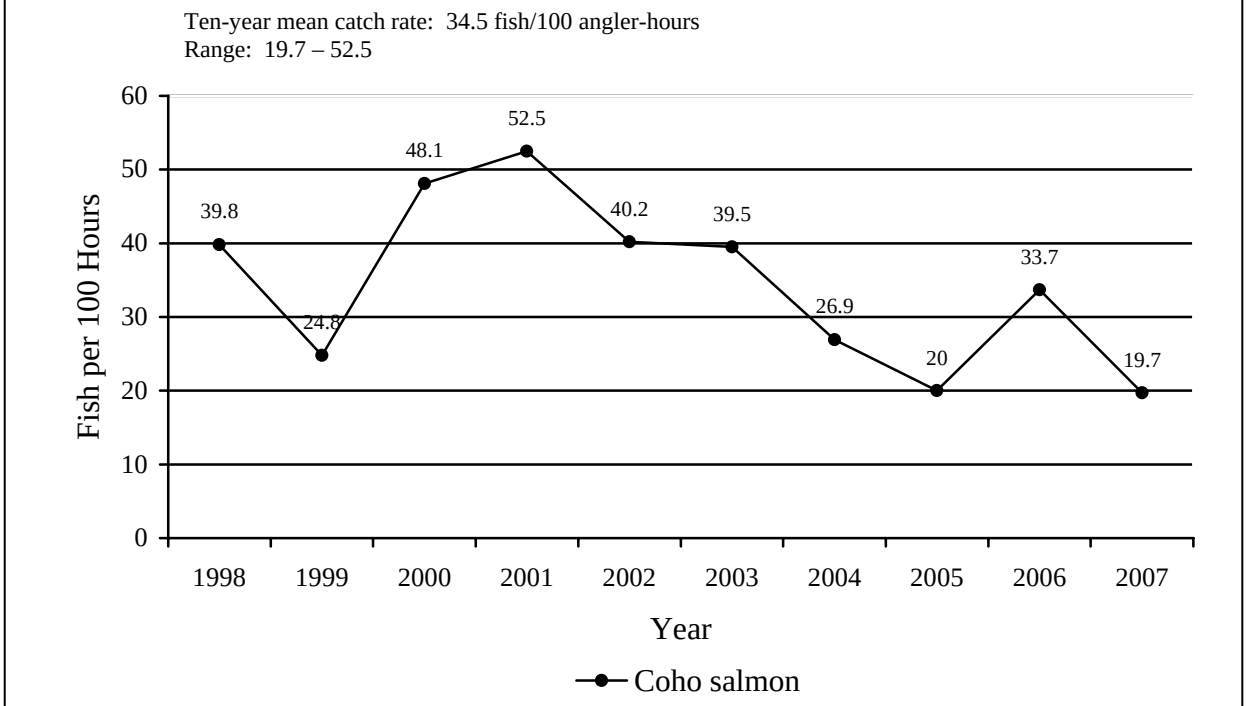

Figure 5. Charter catch rate for coho salmon in Indiana waters of Lake Michigan from 1998 through 2007.

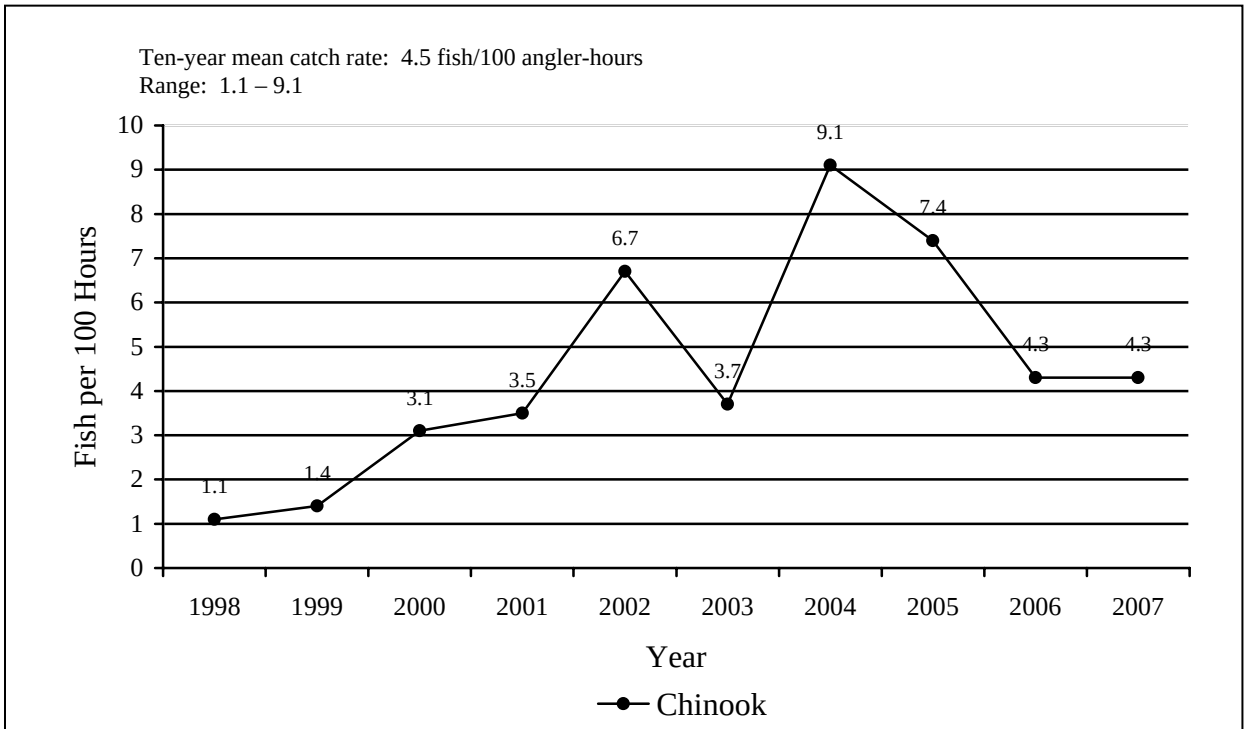

Figure 6. Charter catch rate for Chinook salmon in Indiana waters of Lake Michigan from 1998 through 2007.

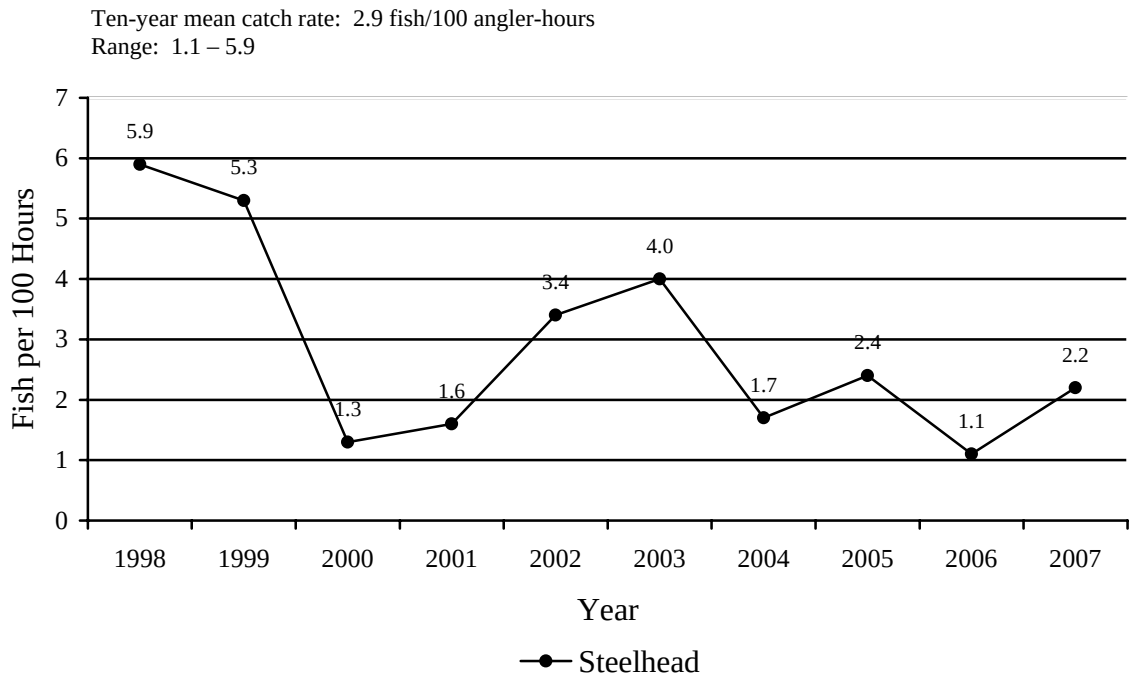

Figure 7. Charter catch rate for steelhead in Indiana waters of Lake Michigan from 1998 through 2007.

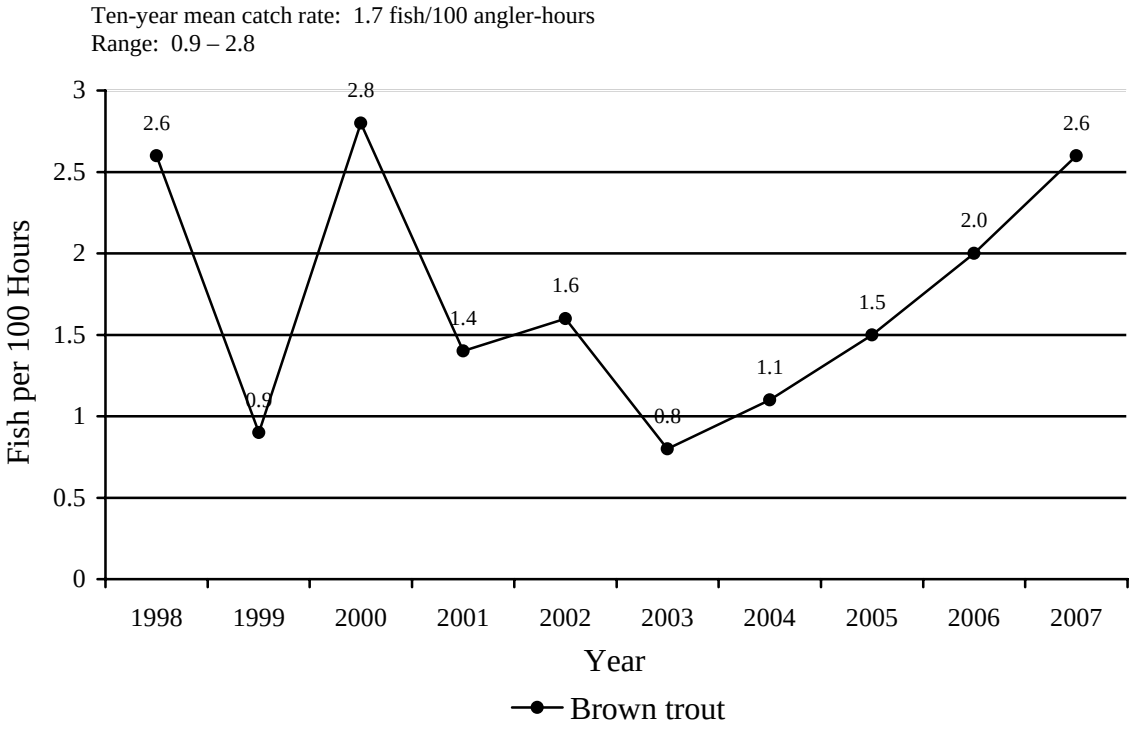

Figure 8. Charter catch rate for brown trout in Indiana waters of Lake Michigan from 1998 through 2007.

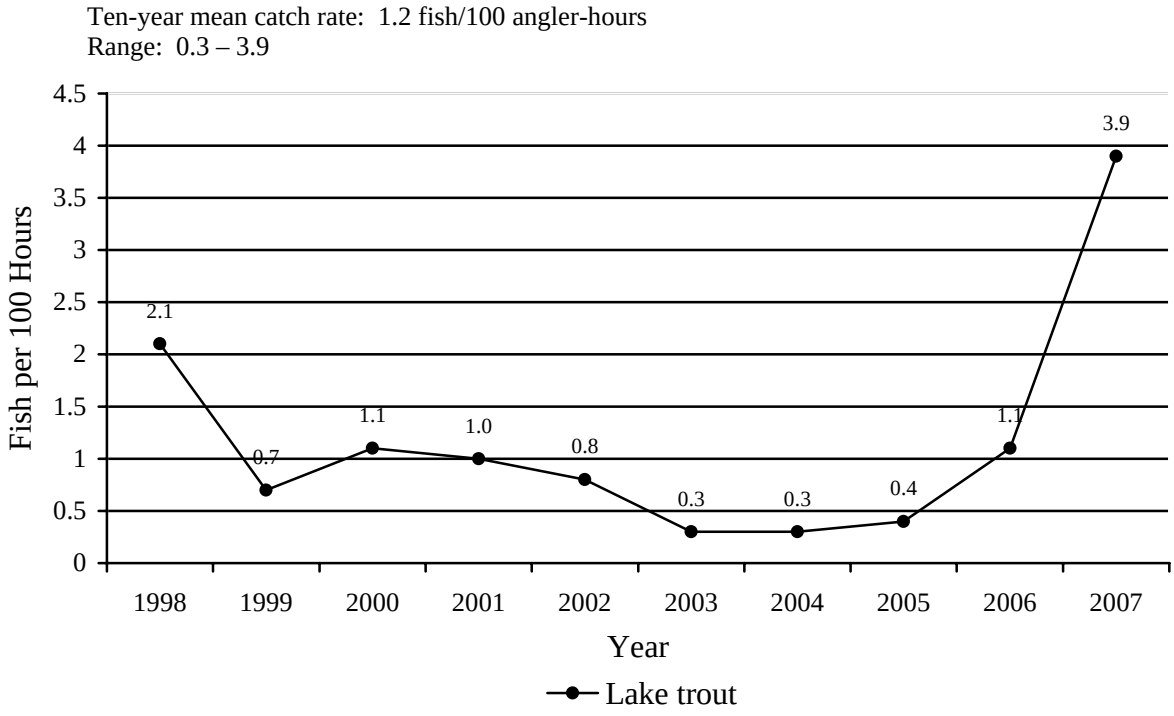

Figure 9. Charter catch rate for lake trout in Indiana waters of Lake Michigan from 1998 through 2007.

APPENDIX 1

312 I.A.C. 9-7-17 Charter fishing boat operator's license

Authority: IC 14-22-2-6; IC 14-22-15

Affected: IC 14-22-15-4

Sec. 17. (a) An individual may not take another individual sport fishing for hire on:

(1) Indiana waters;

(2) waters containing state-owned fish; or

(3) state boundary waters;

without a charter fishing boat operator's license issued by the director under IC 14-22-15-4 and this section.

(b) A license holder under this section shall, on a departmental form, keep legible and accurate daily fishing records of the:

(1) species;

(2) numbers, locations, and dates of fish taken; and

(3) number of fishermen and hours fished;

while engaged in charter fishing. These daily records shall be recorded before the licensed fishing person departs the boat at the conclusion of the fishing trip.

(c) A license holder under this section shall, on a departmental form, prepare a monthly report of the information maintained on the daily fishing records. The monthly report shall be submitted to the director or the director's representative before the fifteenth day of each month following the month covered. The report shall be submitted each month regardless of whether charter fishing activity occurs in the month covered unless the license holder has submitted an Inactive License Form to signify that no fishing activity will take place for the remainder of the calendar year. The Inactive License Form shall be submitted to the director or the director’s representative before the fifteenth day of the month following the month the license is deemed inactive.

(d) The director or the director's representative may, at any reasonable time, inspect the daily fishing records required under subsection (b) or IC 14-22-15-4. *(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-7-17; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2721; filed May 28, 1998, 5:14 p.m.: 21 IR 3723; filed Dec 26, 2001, 2:40 p.m.: 25 IR 1540; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286)*

APPENDIX 2

REPORT OF OPERATOR OF CHARTER FISHING BOAT

State Form 25789 (R6 / 9-03)
Indiana Fish and Wildlife

Reporting period *(month, year)*

Return to:
Division of Fish and Wildlife
100 West Water Street
Michigan City, IN 46360

INSTRUCTIONS: *See reverse side for instructions for completing form.*

Name of licensee	Name of body of water fished	License number

① TRIP DATE	② NUMBER OF ANGLERS	③ LENGTH OF TRIP	④ TOTAL HOURS FISHED	⑤ NUMBER OF FISH HARVESTED						⑥ NUMBER OF FISH RELEASED					
				COHO	CHINOOK	STEEL HEAD	LAKE TROUT	BROWN TROUT	OTHER	COHO	CHINOOK	STEEL HEAD	LAKE TROUT	BROWN TROUT	OTHER
TOTAL															

Comments

I affirm, under the penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true, complete and accurate.	⑦ Signature of charter operator	Date signed *(month, day, year)*

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING FORM
(numbers correspond to numbers on the reverse side)

1. TRIP DATE. Daily fishing trips shall be recorded before the licensed fishing person departs the boat at the conclusion of the charter boat fishing trip *(see administrative rule* 312 AC 9-7-17). Only trips for which all or part of the trip was conducted in **Indiana** waters need to be accounted for. Record the day of the month the fishing activity occurred. If more than one charter boat fishing trip occurs per day, record each trip on a separate line using the same trip date. For example, if you had 3 trips on April 17th, April 17th will occupy three separate lines.

2. NUMBER OF ANGLERS. Daily records shall include the number of anglers fishing in the chartered party. If the captain or first mate's license is used to fish additional poles for the trip or if their license is used for bag limits to count toward the catch, these should be included in the total number of anglers fishing on the boat.

3. LENGTH OF TRIP. Record the number of hours fished in **Indiana** waters. If only a portion of the total trip was conducted in Indiana waters, estimate the total hours that were actually fished in Indiana waters.

4. TOTAL HOURS FISHED. The total hours fished is arrived at by multiplying the number anglers times the hours fished in Indiana waters. For example, if 4 anglers fished 6 hours, the total hours fished is 24.

5. NUMBER OF FISH HARVESTED. Record only fish harvested while fishing in Indiana jurisdictional waters. Use "OTHER" columns for species not listed. **Indicate** what those species are and the **number** harvested in the appropriate boxes. Use the fish abbreviation codes listed. If a code is **not** listed, use the comments box to define the species. For example, if 2 smallmouth bass, 3 largemouth bass and 5 channel catfish were harvested, the fish would be recorded as 2SMB/3LMB in the black bass harvested column and 5CHC in the catfish harvested column.

   Black Bass: smallmouth bass (SMB)
   largemouth bass (LMB)

   Northern Pike / Muskellunge: northern pike (NOP)
   muskie (MUE)

   Temperate Bass: white bass (WHB)
   striped bass (STB)
   hybrid striped bass or wiper (HSB)

   Walleye / Sauger: walleye (WAE)
   sauger (SAE)

   OTHER: carp (CAP)
   freshwater drum (FWD)
   sunfish family (SUN): includes bluegill, crappie, green sunfish, longear sunfish, pumpkinseed, redear, rock bass, warmouth, etc.

6. NUMBER OF FISH RELEASED. Record only fish that were landed but then released while fishing in Indiana jurisdictional waters. Use "OTHER" columns for species not listed. **Indicate** WHAT those species are and the **number** released in the appropriate box. Use the fish abbreviation codes listed above. If a code is **not** listed, use the comments box to define the species. For example, if 3 walleye, 10 crappie and 2 bluegill were released, the fish would be recorded as 3WAE in the walleye/sauger released column and 12SUN in the other released column.

7. SIGNATURE OF CHARTER OPERATOR. Sign and date the form. Forms must be submitted monthly, even if no fishing activity occurred. Reports are due in the Fish and Wildlife's Michigan City office on or before the 15th of the month following the report month.

   NOTE: Return the original copy *(white)* to the Michigan City address displayed below. This report is due in the Division's Michigan City office on or before the 15th of the month following the report month. At any time you may place your license into inactive status by completing an Inactive Report form. Once your license becomes inactive it may not be used for the remainder of the year.

Return to:
Lake Michigan HQT
100 West Water Street
Michigan City, IN 46360-1310